

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) An electronic equipment, comprising: having
a plurality of equipment parts that may be subjected to maintenance; ~~and are specified~~
~~by a maintenance range, comprising:~~

a setting part that is set with ~~the maintenance range in~~ one or a plurality of arbitrary
equipment parts for which the maintenance ~~of the electronic equipment~~ by a
maintenance-attending person is permitted;

a processor configured to authenticate a validity of the maintenance-attending person
for the electronic equipment; and

a changing part configured to temporarily change the ~~maintenance range~~ one or the
plurality of arbitrary equipment parts set in said setting part, in response to a change
instruction including the electronic equipment as a target equipment, when said processor
authenticates the validity of the maintenance-attending person.

2. (Previously Presented) The electronic equipment as claimed in claim 1, wherein
said setting part is preset with a maintenance range for each maintenance person.

3. (Previously Presented) The electronic equipment as claimed in claim 1, wherein
said processor authenticates the validity of the maintenance-attending person using an
authenticating medium that stores authentication information of the maintenance-attending
person.

4. (Currently Amended) The electronic equipment as claimed in claim 1, wherein
said changing part is configured to add at least one of the plurality of equipment parts ~~adds a~~

~~maintenance range~~ specified by the change instruction only for a period of time specified by the change instruction, with respect to the ~~maintenance range~~ one or the plurality of arbitrary equipment parts set in said setting part.

5. (Previously Presented) The electronic equipment as claimed in claim 1, wherein said setting part is also set with a predetermined management range in which management is permitted, and

said changing part also temporarily changes the predetermined management range set in said setting part, in response to the change instruction, when said processor authenticates the validity of the maintenance-attending person.

6. (Previously Presented) The electronic equipment as claimed in claim 1, further comprising:

an input part configured to permit input of the change instruction by an operator whose validity is authenticated.

7. (Currently Amended) An equipment managing apparatus for controlling an electronic equipment that includes a setting part which is set with one or a plurality of arbitrary equipment parts of the electronic equipment for a maintenance range in which maintenance is permitted, a first authenticating part to authenticate a validity of a maintenance-attending person for the electronic equipment, and a changing part to temporarily change the ~~maintenance range~~ one or the plurality of arbitrary equipment parts set in the setting part in response to a change instruction when the first authenticating part authenticates the validity of the maintenance-attending person, said equipment managing apparatus comprising:

a processor configured to authenticate a validity of an operator of the equipment managing apparatus;

an input part configured to permit input of the change instruction for changing the ~~maintenance range~~ one or the plurality of arbitrary equipment parts set in the setting part when the processor authenticates the validity of the operator, ~~the maintenance range being a range in which the~~ maintenance of the electronic equipment by the maintenance-attending person ~~[[is]]~~ being permitted for the changed one or the plurality of arbitrary equipment parts, the change instruction including the electronic equipment as a target equipment; and

a supply part configured to supply the change instruction input from said input part to the electronic equipment.

8. (Previously Presented) The equipment managing apparatus as claimed in claim 7, wherein said processor authenticates the validity of the operator using an authenticating medium that stores authentication information of the operator.

9. (Currently Amended) An equipment maintenance system for controlling a ~~maintenance range in~~ plurality of equipment parts of an equipment for which maintenance of one or a plurality of arbitrary ~~[[an]]~~ equipment parts may be performed, comprising:

a setting part configured to set in advance the ~~maintenance range in~~ one or the plurality of arbitrary equipment parts for which the maintenance ~~of the equipment~~ by a maintenance-attending person is permitted;

a processor configured to authenticate a validity of the maintenance-attending person for the equipment; and

a changing part configured to temporarily change the set ~~maintenance range~~ one or the plurality of arbitrary equipment parts ~~to a changed maintenance range~~ based on an

authentication result of said processor, so that [[the]] maintenance of the equipment is temporarily permitted ~~within~~ for the changed one or the plurality of arbitrary equipment parts, the authentication result including the equipment as a target equipment maintenance range.

10. (Previously Presented) The equipment maintenance system as claimed in claim 9, wherein said setting part is provided within a maintenance service provider that provides maintenance services for the equipment, or within a setup site of the equipment.

11. (Previously Presented) The equipment maintenance system as claimed in claim 9, wherein said changing part is provided within a maintenance service provider that provides maintenance services for the equipment, or within a setup site of the equipment.

12. (Original) The equipment maintenance system as claimed in claim 11, wherein said changing part is provided in an apparatus within the maintenance service provider, and

said apparatus is communicatable with the equipment via a network.

13. (Previously Presented) The equipment maintenance system as claimed in claim 11, wherein

said changing part is provided in an apparatus within the maintenance service provider, or provided within the equipment, and

said apparatus is communicatable with the equipment via a network.

14. (Previously Presented) The equipment maintenance system as claimed in claim 9, further comprising:

a second authenticating part configured to authenticate a validity of an operator of said changing part.

15. (Previously Presented) The equipment maintenance system as claimed in claim 14, wherein said second authenticating part authenticates the validity of the operator using an authenticating medium that stores authentication information of the operator.

16. (Previously Presented) The equipment maintenance system as claimed in claim 9, wherein said processor authenticates the validity of the maintenance-attending person using an authenticating medium that stores authentication information of a maintenance person.

17. (Original) The equipment maintenance system as claimed in claim 9, wherein said setting part sets in advance a maintenance range for each maintenance person.

18. (Currently Amended) The equipment maintenance system as claimed in claim 9, further comprising:

a maintenance part configured to perform the maintenance of the equipment ~~within~~
for the changed maintenance range one or the plurality of arbitrary equipment parts.

19. (Previously Presented) The equipment maintenance system as claimed in claim 18, wherein

said maintenance part is provided in an apparatus within a maintenance service provider that provides maintenance services for the equipment, and

said apparatus is communicatable with the equipment via a network to perform remote maintenance of the equipment.

20. (Previously Presented) The equipment maintenance system as claimed in claim 18, wherein

said maintenance part is provided within an apparatus in a setup site of the equipment, or within the equipment, and

said apparatus is communicatable with the equipment via a network.

21. (Previously Presented) The equipment maintenance system as claimed in claim 9, wherein the equipment is selected from a group consisting of an information processing apparatus, an office automation (OA) equipment, a point-of sales (POS) terminal equipment, a medical equipment, a vending machine, an electrical home appliance, and a portable terminal equipment.

22. (Currently Amended) An equipment maintenance method for controlling a ~~maintenance range in~~ plurality of equipment parts of an equipment for which maintenance of ~~[[an]] one or a plurality of arbitrary equipment parts~~ may be performed, comprising:

(a) setting in advance the ~~maintenance range in one or the plurality of arbitrary equipment parts~~ for which the maintenance of the equipment by a maintenance-attending person is permitted;

(b) authenticating a validity of the maintenance-attending person for the equipment;
[[and]]

(c) changing temporarily, with a processor, the set ~~maintenance range one or the plurality of arbitrary equipment parts~~ to a ~~changed maintenance range~~ based on an

authentication result of said step (b), so that [[the]] maintenance of the equipment is temporarily permitted for within the changed one or the plurality of arbitrary equipment parts, the authentication result including the equipment as a target equipment ~~maintenance range~~.

23. (Previously Presented) The equipment maintenance method as claimed in claim 22, wherein said step (a) is performed within a maintenance service provider that provides maintenance services for the equipment, or within a setup site of the equipment.

24. (Previously Presented) The equipment managing method as claimed in claim 22, wherein said step (c) is carried out within a maintenance service provider that provides maintenance services for the equipment, or within a setup site of the equipment.

25. (Original) The equipment managing method as claimed in claim 24, wherein said step (c) is carried out in an apparatus within the maintenance service provider, and
said apparatus is communicatable with the equipment via a network.

26. (Previously Presented) The equipment maintenance method as claimed in claim 24, wherein

said step (c) is carried out in an apparatus within the maintenance service provider or within the equipment, and

said apparatus is communicatable with the equipment via a network.

27. (Previously Presented) The equipment maintenance method as claimed in claim 22, further comprising:

(d) authenticating a validity of an operator of said changing.

28. (Previously Presented) The equipment maintenance method as claimed in claim 27, wherein said step (d) authenticates the validity of the operator using an authenticating medium that stores authentication information of the operator.

29. (Previously Presented) The equipment maintenance method as claimed in claim 22, wherein said step (b) authenticates the validity of the maintenance-attending person using an authenticating medium that stores authentication information of a maintenance person.

30. (Original) The equipment maintenance method as claimed in claim 22, wherein said step (a) sets in advance a maintenance range for each maintenance person.

31. (Currently Amended) The equipment maintenance method as claimed in claim 22, further comprising:

(e) carrying out maintenance of the equipment ~~within~~ for the changed ~~maintenance range~~ one or the plurality of arbitrary equipment parts.

32. (Previously Presented) The equipment maintenance method as claimed in claim 31, wherein

said step (e) is carried out in an apparatus within a maintenance service provider that provides maintenance services for the equipment, and

said apparatus is communicatable with the equipment via a network to perform remote maintenance of the equipment.

33. (Previously Presented) The equipment maintenance method as claimed in claim 31, wherein

said step (e) is carried out within an apparatus in a setup site of the equipment, or within the equipment, and

said apparatus is communicatable with the equipment via a network.

34. (Previously Presented) The equipment maintenance method as claimed in claim 22, wherein the equipment is selected from a group consisting of an information processing apparatus, an office automation (OA) equipment, a point-of sales (POS) terminal equipment, a medical equipment, a vending machine, an electrical home appliance, and a portable terminal equipment.

35. (Currently Amended) An electronic equipment, comprising: having
a plurality of equipment parts that may be subjected to maintenance; and are specified
by a maintenance range, comprising:

setting means for storing the maintenance range in one or a plurality of equipment
parts for which the maintenance of the electronic equipment by a maintenance-attending
person is permitted;

authenticating means for authenticating a validity of the maintenance-attending
person for the electronic equipment; and

changing means for temporarily changing the maintenance range one or the plurality
of arbitrary equipment parts stored in said setting means, in response to a change instruction
including the electronic equipment as a target equipment, when said authenticating means
authenticates the validity of the maintenance-attending person.

36. (Currently Amended) An equipment managing apparatus for controlling an electronic equipment which includes setting means for storing ~~a maintenance range in one or a plurality of arbitrary equipment parts of the electronic equipment for~~ which maintenance is permitted, first authenticating means for authenticating a validity of a maintenance-attending person for the electronic equipment, and changing means for temporarily changing the one or the plurality of arbitrary equipment parts maintenance range stored in the setting means in response to a change instruction when the first authenticating means authenticates the validity of the maintenance-attending person, said equipment managing apparatus comprising:

second authenticating means for authenticating a validity of an operator of the equipment managing apparatus;

input means for permitting input of the change instruction for temporarily changing the one or the plurality of arbitrary equipment parts stored in said setting means maintenance range when the second authenticating means authenticates the validity of the operator, ~~the maintenance range being a range in which the~~ maintenance of the electronic equipment by the maintenance-attending person ~~[[is]]~~ being permitted for the changed one or the plurality of arbitrary equipment parts, the change instruction including the electronic equipment as a target equipment; and

means for supplying the change instruction input from said input means to the electronic equipment.

37. (Currently Amended) An equipment maintenance system for controlling a plurality of equipment parts of an equipment for maintenance range in which maintenance of ~~[[an]]~~ one or a plurality of arbitrary equipment parts may be performed, comprising:

setting means for setting in advance the ~~maintenance range in~~ one or the plurality of arbitrary equipment parts for which the maintenance of the equipment by a maintenance-attending person is permitted;

authenticating means for authenticating a validity of the maintenance-attending person for the equipment; and

changing means for temporarily changing the set ~~maintenance range~~ one or the plurality of arbitrary equipment parts to a ~~changed maintenance range~~ based on an authentication result of said authenticating means, so that [[the]] maintenance of the equipment is temporarily permitted ~~within~~ for the changed ~~maintenance range~~ one or the plurality of arbitrary equipment parts, the authentication result including the equipment as a target equipment.

38. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable storage medium including a program, wherein the program, when executed by a computer, causes the computer to perform a method for setting a ~~maintenance range that specifies~~ one or a plurality of arbitrary equipment parts of an electronic equipment that may be subjected to maintenance, said method comprising:

setting the ~~maintenance range in~~ one or the plurality of arbitrary equipment parts for which the maintenance of the electronic equipment by a maintenance-attending person is permitted;

authenticating a validity of the maintenance-attending person for the electronic equipment; and

changing temporarily the ~~maintenance range~~ one or the plurality of arbitrary equipment parts set in said setting, in response to a change instruction including the

electronic equipment as a target equipment, when said authenticating authenticates the validity of the maintenance-attending person.

39. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable storage medium including a program, wherein the program, when executed by a computer, causes the computer to perform a method for managing an electronic equipment that includes a setting part set with one or a ~~maintenance-range~~ in plurality of arbitrary equipment parts of the electronic equipment for which maintenance is permitted, an authenticating part configured to authenticate a validity of a maintenance-attending person for the electronic equipment, and a changing part configured to temporarily change the ~~maintenance-range~~ one or the plurality of arbitrary equipment parts set in the setting part in response to a change instruction when the authenticating part authenticates the validity of the maintenance-attending person, said method comprising:

authenticating a validity of an operator of the computer;

inputting the change instruction for temporarily changing the ~~maintenance-range~~ one or the plurality of arbitrary equipment parts set in the setting part when the authenticating authenticates the validity of the operator, ~~the maintenance-range being a range in which the~~ maintenance of the electronic equipment by the maintenance-attending person [[is]] being permitted for the changed one or the plurality of arbitrary equipment parts, the change instruction including the electronic equipment as a target equipment; and

supplying the change instruction input by said inputting to the electronic equipment.

40. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable storage medium including a program, wherein the program, when executed by a computer, causes the computer to perform a method for controlling a ~~maintenance-range~~ in plurality of equipment parts of an

equipment for which maintenance of [[an]] one or a plurality of arbitrary equipment parts
may be performed, said method comprising:

setting in advance the ~~maintenance range in~~ the one or the plurality of arbitrary
equipment parts for which the maintenance of the equipment by a maintenance-attending
person is permitted;

authenticating a validity of the maintenance-attending person for the equipment; and

changing temporarily the set ~~maintenance range~~ one or the plurality of equipment
parts to a changed maintenance range based on an authentication result of said authenticating,
so that [[the]] maintenance of the equipment is temporarily permitted ~~within~~ for the changed
~~maintenance range~~ one or the plurality of arbitrary equipment parts, the authentication result
including the equipment as a target equipment.